

**Policy Board Meeting
September 5, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending

Michael Arthur, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1, Secretary
Phil Barrett, Saratoga County Board of Supervisors
Andris Blumbergs, representing Peter Crummey, Town of Colonie
The Honorable Michael Butler, City of Mechanicville
Stephen Donnelly, Town of Coeymans
Rory Fluman, Schenectady County Manager
Andrew Kreshik, representing Mayor Carmella Mantello, City of Troy
The Honorable Gary McCarthy, City of Schenectady
Lawrence Schillinger, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Phil Serafino, New York State Thruway Authority
The Honorable Kathy Sheehan, City of Albany, Chair
The Honorable Michael Stammel, City of Rensselaer
Christine Stuto, Albany Port District Commission
Linda von der Heide, representing Steven McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Executive
Tom Werner, Saratoga County

Staff and Others Attending

Chris Bauer, Capital Region Transportation Council
Jacob Beeman, Capital Region Transportation Council
Mark Castiglione, Capital District Regional Planning Commission
Megan Daly, Albany Port District Commission
Howard Goebel, City of Albany
Dan Harp, NYS Department of Transportation Statewide Planning Bureau
Richard Hendrick, Albany Port District Commission
Sandra Misiewicz, Capital Region Transportation Council
John Schneiderman, Albany Port District Commission
Chaim Simon, Capital Region Transportation Council
Andrew Tracy, Capital Region Transportation Council
Carrie Ward, Capital Region Transportation Council
Greg Wichser, NYS Department of Transportation Region-1

Opening Remarks

Kathy Sheehan opened the meeting at approximately 3:01 PM.

Administration

A. June 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Gary McCarthy motioned to approve the June 6, 2024 meeting minutes, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no speakers.

Presentation – Port of Albany Plans

Richard Hendrick introduced himself and Christine Stuto. Megan Daly provided a presentation on the Port's activities. The Port has grown by 50% in land size by adding land in Rensselaer and Bethlehem. To better accommodate large and heavy loads, there are both new and expanded warehouses at the terminal, as well as an extensive upgraded wharf on both sides of the river. The Port District Commission is a public, with members appointed by the Governor. The Port has undertaken a growth strategy and is focusing on market development. There are 25 private business operators at the Port and several recent state and federal investments in maritime operations. It will be important to ensure that the regional roadway network is able to accommodate the large loads that may want to utilize the port. The terminal and internal roads have also been updated recently, enabling trucks and other vehicles to utilize roadways within the Port instead of South Pearl Street. The Port voluntarily participates in Green Marine to reduce its carbon footprint, and to date has instituted electric vehicle charging, a recycling program, and an updated truck idling policy in addition to other efforts. The Port also applied to EPA's Clean Ports Program for zero-emission equipment for port handling equipment, as well as a planning initiative. The Port works to encourage job access throughout the region as well as in its immediate neighborhood.

2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

A. Livingston Avenue Amtrak Railroad over the Hudson River Bridge Replacement

Michael Arthur explained that this amendment swaps \$90M of state funds to federal. Mayor Sheehan motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Mike Stammel seconded, and members approved the motion.

B. Route 146 over Normanskill Bridge Replacement

Mike Arthur explained that the budget for this project increased due to inflation and to incorporate a multi-use path between Tawasentha Park and the winter recreation area. Rich Hendrick motioned to approve the amendments as presented, Rory Fluman seconded, and members approved the motion.

C. River View Rd. over I-87, Bridge Replacement

Michael Arthur explained that this bridge was struck earlier this summer, so the project schedule was accelerated. The amendment also adds funding to reflect current estimates. Tom Werner motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Phil Barrett seconded, and members approved the motion.

D. New Karner Road and Washington Avenue Roundabout

Jacob Beeman explained that this amendment would add a new project to the TIP for a roundabout at New Karner Road and Washington Avenue Extension. The roundabout was previously included in a separate project but was delayed. This project will enable the rest of the New Karner Road project to progress on schedule. Part of the roundabout will be funded by set-aside HSIP funding. Rory Fluman motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Mike Butler seconded, and members approved the motion.

E. Block of Funds for NYSDOT Curve Warning Sign Upgrades Multi-Site Program

This project will update existing curve warning signs to current MUTCD standards. Mayor Sheehan motioned to approve the amendment as presented, Linda von der Heide seconded, and members approved the motion.

F through L: The following amendments were acted on as a group:

F. Malta Pedals (Pedestrian Downtown Access Linkage System)

G. Rt. 335 Elsmere Ave. Sidewalk Replacement and Extension

H. Sitterly Road Intersection Enhancement and Sidewalk Connectivity Project

I. US 4 Sidewalk Continuity Project

J. Bethlehem Priority Corridors Sidewalk Replacement and Installation

K. Rt. 50 (Doubleday Ave.) at Northline Road Intersection Improvement

L. Maple Ave. and Bozenkill Rd. Sidewalk Installation and Safety Enhancements

Mike Arthur explained that the previous seven projects reflect recent TAP/CMAQ/CMP awards and NYSDOT has requested addition to the TIP on behalf of all sponsors. Rory Fluman motioned to approve all seven amendments as presented, Stephen Donnelly seconded, and members approved the motion.

2025-2030 TIP Solicitation Materials

A. Guidance Document

B. Appendix A

C. Jotform Application

Jacob Beeman explained that the updated TIP solicitation materials were developed by staff with assistance from the TIP Task Force, which is a subcommittee of the Planning Committee. The biggest change is that there will be different evaluation criteria for each of six different project types. Andrew Tracy noted that we plan to use an online application via Jotform, with a different application for each project category. Gary McCarthy motioned to approve the prepared materials and authorize staff to release the solicitation, Mike Stammel seconded, and members approved the motion.

In Motion Metropolitan Transportation Plan

A. Review and Approve Draft Vision Statement for Public Review

B. Status Report

Sandra Misiewicz summarized public input efforts undertaken to date and presented the draft vision statement. Over the next few months, staff will develop planning scenarios, a needs assessment and financial plan, and a list of illustrative projects. Mike Stammel motioned to approve the draft vision statement for release, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the motion.

National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) and Critical Urban Freight Corridor designations

Chris Bauer explained that NYSDOT's Main Office requested MPO approval of the Critical Urban Freight Corridor designations. Expenditure of NHFP fundings must take place on critical urban freight corridors. The proposed designations are for the roadway segments where the following three projects would be funded – replacement of Route

146 over I-890, replacement of Route 146 over Chrisler Avenue and the CSX railroad, and the interchange improvements and bridge replacement project at Exit 16 of I-87. Larry Schillinger motioned to certify the critical urban freight corridors, Tom Werner seconded, and members approved the motion.

Title VI Implementation Plan and Assurances Revision and Update

Sandra Misiewicz explained that the certification review recommended tweaking the Title VI Plan, mostly to change the reporting requirements. Mike Butler motioned to approve the update as presented, Rory Fluman seconded, and members approved the motion.

Status of Regional Transportation Planning Initiatives

A. Transportation Council

Sandra Misiewicz noted that a solicitation for planning projects will be released this fall. The recording from the Vision Zero virtual meeting is available on the project website.

B. CDRPC

Larry Schillinger noted that CDRPC's housing study was finalized and is available on the website. The study looks at housing affordability, population projections, school district enrollment, as well as out and in-migration is available. CDRPC continues work on the EPA-funded Climate Action Plan, as well as a regional broadband expansion feasibility study. The annual Planning & Zoning Workshop will be October 18th. CDRPC recently addressed the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors about their available programming – the Commission is also able to present to other entities.

C. CDTA

Mayor Sheehan noted that CDTA is looking to alternate sites for Greyhound to operate, should the current station be removed.

D. NYSDOT

Michael Arthur announced that Chad Corbett is now the Albany County Resident Engineer, Tom Cashdollar is the acting Resident Engineer in Schenectady, Wyatt Martin is the new Regional Permit Engineer, and Guy Tedesco is now with the local projects group. Ken Bibbens is the new Assistant Commissioner for Operations.

E. NYSTA

No updates were provided.

F. Albany County Airport Authority

No updates were provided.

G. Albany Port District Commission

Rich Hendrick noted the Port's role in the Champlain Hudson Power Express cable project.

H. Regional/Local Planning Activities

Sandra Misiewicz referred to the status table.

Other

There was no other business.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Kathy Sheehan referred to the agenda listing upcoming meetings and events.

Adjournment

Gary McCarthy motioned to adjourn at approximately 4:04 PM, Stephen Donnelly seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Arthur
Secretary